

KENTUCKY GAZETTE.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1789.

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Proceedings of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE
UNITED STATES.

TUESDAY, August 4, 1789.

MR. HEISTER presented a petition from the inhabitants of Cumberland county, State of Pennsylvania, praying that the sessions of the Federal Courts may not be re-adjourned to the city of Philadelphia—laid on the table.

The engrossed bill for allowing a compensation to the President and Vice President, for their services, was read a third time, and passed to be enacted.

Mr. AMES presented a petition from Dudley Tyler, an officer in the late continental army, praying for an allowance for services which had not been compensated—laid on the table.

Mr. HUNTINGTON presented a memorial from Christopher Collins, stating, that he had invented a Perambulator, upon more simple and adequate principles than has hitherto been discovered, and praying for an exclusive right to use and improve the same—laid on the table.

Mr. WHITE, of the standing committee to examine the enrolled bills, presented the bill providing for the government of the western territory, which the committee had examined, and found correct—the speaker then signed the same.

Mr. BAILEY of the committee appointed for the purpose, brought in a bill for allowing a compensation to the members of both houses, and to their respective officers: This bill provides that the compensation shall be as follows, viz:

To each member of the senate and house, six dollars, per day.

Speaker of the house twelve dollars per day.

To the secretary of the senate, and clerk of the house, each fifty hundred dollars a year, and two dollars a day each, during the session of the legislature.—One principal clerk to each, at three dollars a day during the session.—One enrolling clerk to each at two dollars a day during the session.

Sergeants at arms, three dollars a day during the session.

Door keepers to the house and senate, each seven hundred and thirty dollars a year.

Affidavit door keepers, during the session, one dollar and fifty cents a day each. This bill was laid on the table.

The house then went into a committee of the whole on the bill for registering and clearing vessels, and regulating the coasting trade.

A message was added to this bill, which provides for a suspension of the bounty of five cents on every barrel of pickled fish, every quintal of dried fish, and every barrel of pickled provisions, exported from the United States, as allowed by the impost law, till after the last day of July, 1790.

The committee having finished this bill, the speaker resumed the chair—the house acceded to the several amendments and the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. BENSON's motion, introduced yesterday, was taken up, and after a short debate, a committee for the purpose therein mentioned, consisting of Mr. CAL, Mr. HEISTER, and Mr. WADSWORTH, was appointed.

The house then resumed the consideration of the amendments to the treasury bill proposed by the senate, on which a decision was postponed yesterday—a lengthy debate ensued upon the subject, in which the justice of the argument upon the President's power of removability was repeated, and which terminated in not acceding to the amendments of the senate.

WEDNESDAY, August 5.

The house met pursuant to adjournment, and passed the bill for establishing the department of war, with the amendment proposed by the senate.

Also, passed the bill, with amendments, as returned by the senate, for regulating the government of the western territory.

The bill for regulating the coasting trade was read the third time, passed the house, and ordered to be transmitted to the senate for concurrence.

A message from the President of the United States, by Mr. LEVY his secretary, informing that he approved the bill for settling the accounts between the United States, and the individual states, and had signed the same.

The report of the committee respecting the donation made in the western territories, granted by Virginia to the Virginia troops, late in the service of the United States, was read a second time: Ordered, that a hundred copies thereof be printed for the use of the members.

Mr. WHITE read a motion on the table, for re-adjourning a regulation of the late Congress, respecting the location of lands for the Virginia troops.

The house went into a committee of the whole, on the bill for compensating the service of the members of the Senate and house of representatives, and their officers.

A motion was made to strike out six dollars per diem as a compensation for each member.

Mr. CARROLL called in quest on the propriety of the motion, supposing the committee not at liberty to alter principles settled in the house.

Mr. PAGE went into an argument to show, that the sum ought not to be amended, he thought six dollars a day not more than sufficient to compensate gentlemen for their trouble and expenses; he was afraid of the consequence which would result from a parsimonious provision for the legislature of the general government.

Mr. SEDGWICK advocated a reduction of the allowance, because he thought the temper of the people would be annoyed by the large-ness of the sum: he did not think it more than a compensation for the sacrifices which gentlemen made, in discharging their time and abilities to the public service; but he judged it to be more than the duties of the people were able to support.

Mr. VINTAGE joined the gentlemen from Maryland (Mr. CARROLL) in supporting the motion out of order: and called upon the chairman, Mr. BOUNDWORTH, to decide upon the point of order, which Mr. BOUNDWORTH did, by saying, that when a bill was committed to a committee of the whole every part of it was open to debate and alteration. Mr. VINTAGE then proceeded to oppose a deduction of the compensation; he thought that gentlemen could not live, and reciprocate those civilities which common politeness and their situation required, for a less sum than proposed in the bill. He presumed it was not the intention of the house to embarrass the situation of gentlemen who were at considerable expense in moving their families to the seat of government, in order to be more at liberty to employ their attention to public business, and not have their minds divided between their domestic and public affairs. He thought that Congress might contemplate a deduction of the compensation, when they should remove to a place less expensive than the capital of one of the most considerable states in the union. When that event took place—and he would join the gentlemen from Virginia (Mr. WHITE) who had dropped a sentiment yesterday of the kind, in giving his consent that it should early take place: he thought that the expenses of the civil list might then be properly reduced; but as present he could not think a less sum than that proposed in the bill, was more than was absolutely necessary for the support of the members of Congress: it was the averaged sum of what was given to the members of the late Congress.

Mr. FISHBURN thought every gentleman was adequate to form an opinion, in his own mind, from the facts within his knowledge, of what would be a proper compensation for his services and expenses.

Mr. SEDGWICK reprobated these sentiments, as tending to preclude debate: for they would apply upon every other subject as well as this.

Mr. PAGE again opposed the reduction, and joined in sentiment with the gentlemen from Pennsylvania (Mr. FISHBURN) that much argument was unnecessary.

The question, for striking out six dollars, was put, and determined in the negative 34 to 16.

A motion was made for reducing the compensation to the speaker, which met with a similar fate.

The committee not having time to go through the bill, rose and reported progress.

Adjourned till 11 o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, August 6.

Mr. WHITE, from the committee appointed for the purpose of examining the enrolment of the laws, reported that they had examined the act concerning light houses, the act for establishing a department of war, and the act relative to the government of the western territory; that they were duly enrolled, and ready for the signature of the speaker.

The order of the day, for taking up the bill relative to copy rights of authors and inventors, was postponed till Thursday next.

Mr. WHITE obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

Mr. GERRY moved a resolution, that a committee be appointed to report a catalogue of books necessary for the use of Congress, and an estimate of the amount thereof, and best mode of procuring them. The resolution was read and laid on the table.

The house went into a committee on the bill for establishing the compensation to be allowed the members of Congress, and their officers, and having made some amendments to the bill, rose and reported the same; the bill was agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed—it now stands as follows:

The wages of the speaker twelve dollars per day, the other members six dollars per day, and two days pay for every twenty miles distance from home.

The salary of the chaplains was fixed at the rate of 500 dollars per annum, during the sessions of Congress.

The salary of the secretary of the senate and clerk of the house, at the rate of 1500 dollars per annum, and two dollars per day during the sessions of Congress.

The first clerks under the secretary and clerk of the house at three dollars per day, and the other clerks at two dollars per day each.

The sergeant at arms four dollars per day during the sessions.

The door keepers 730 dollars per annum, and their assistants, two dollars per day, during the sessions.

A message was received from the senate that they insisted on their amendments to the treasury bill, respecting the removability of the secretary by the President.

That they had agreed to the resolution of the house for appointing a committee to report what business ought to be finished previous to the adjournment.

FRIDAY, August 7.

Mr. GERRY introduced a motion, that a committee be appointed to prepare and report a bill for the further encouragement of the navigation and commerce of the United States. This motion was adopted, and a committee, consisting of Mr. GERRY, Mr. TRUMBULL, and Mr. BURKE appointed.

A message from the President of the United States, by the Honorable General KNOX, was received, respecting the present posture of Indian affairs, suggesting the propriety of appointing commissioners to investigate and report their actual situation. The message also noticed the subject of the militia throughout the United States—referred to a committee of the whole house on the state of union.

Another message was received from the President, by Mr. Secretary LEAR with three acts of Congress, to which the President has affixed his approbation and signature, viz.: The bill for establishing light houses, beacons, buoys and public piers; the bill for establishing the government of the western territory; and the bill for establishing the war department.

The engrossed bill for allowing a compensation to the members and officers of the two houses, was read: a motion was then made by Mr. SEDGWICK, that the same should be recommitted, this motion was seconded by several members, which brought on a debate.

The question for recommitment was determined in the affirmative, and the house immediately went into a committee of the whole. The several clauses of the bill were then discussed, and the following amendments agreed to, viz. 1st—of two days pay as an allowance for every twenty miles distance from the seat of government—six dollars for every twenty-five miles, was adopted; by which all speakers in this respect, put on an equality with the other members.

The allowance of 730 dollars to the door keepers was struck out, and the speaker a day, during the session, for himself, and such laborers as he may think necessary to employ, was voted: 17th other articles stand as agreed to yesterday. The discussion being finished, the committee rose, and the chairman reported the amendments, which were acceded to by the house, and the bill was again ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday next.

SATURDAY, August 8.

The house resolved itself into a committee on the state of the union.

The message of the President, and the papers accompanying the same, having been taken into consideration, it was

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that an act ought to pass providing for the necessary expenses attending any negotiations or treaties which may be held with the Indian tribes, or attending the appointment of commissioners for those purposes.

Mr. CLYMER, Mr. AMES and Mr. MOORE, were appointed a committee to bring in a bill for that purpose.

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that an act ought to pass providing a proper system of regulations for the militia of the United States.

Mr. SUMPTER, Mr. HEISTER and Mr. MATTHEWS, were appointed to bring in a bill for that purpose.

The resolutions were approved by the house.

ALL persons indebted to the estate of Sam. Grant dec'd are requested to make immediate payment to Elijah CRAIG, who is authorized to settle the same and those who have any demands against the estate, are required to bring in their accounts, that they may be settled.

LYDIA GRANT Executrix.
ELIJAH CRAIG,
WM. GRANT, jun. } Exors.
ISRAEL GRANT,
October 1, 1789.

